

What is claimed is:

Sub. B1 > 1. An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine, comprising;

a CO oxidation catalyst; and

a H₂O trap disposed upstream of and close to the CO oxidation catalyst.

Suba' > 2. An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine, comprising;

an underfloor catalyst wherein a CO oxidation catalyst and a H₂O trap are coated on a support.

3. An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 2, wherein the H₂O trap is disposed upstream of the CO oxidation catalyst.

4. An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 2, wherein the H₂O trap and the CO oxidation catalyst are coated on the support while the both are overlapped layer-wise on each other.

5. An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 4, wherein the H₂O trap is disposed as the upper layer and the CO oxidation catalyst is disposed as the lower layer.

6. An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 2, wherein the H₂O trap and the CO oxidation catalyst are mixed with each other.

7. An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein the CO oxidation catalyst has low temperature light-off characteristics.

8. An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, further comprising a secondary air supply unit disposed upstream of the H₂O trap.

9. An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, further comprising a HC trap disposed upstream of the H₂O trap.

10. An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, further comprising:

a secondary air supply unit disposed upstream of the H₂O trap; and

a HC trap disposed upstream of the secondary air supply unit.

11. An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine, comprising;

a low temperature light-off CO oxidation catalyst;

a H₂O trap disposed upstream of and close to the CO oxidation catalyst;

a secondary air supply unit disposed upstream of the H₂O trap; and

a HC trap disposed upstream of the secondary air supply.

12. An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine, comprising;

an underfloor catalyst wherein a low temperature light-off CO oxidation catalyst and a H₂O trap are coated on a support;

a secondary air supply unit disposed upstream of the underfloor catalyst.